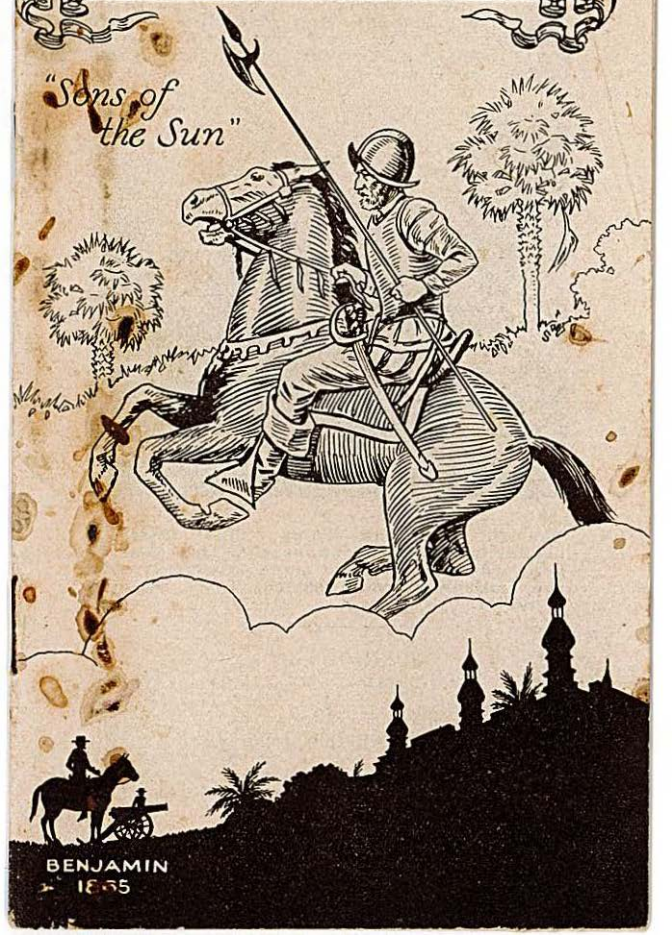
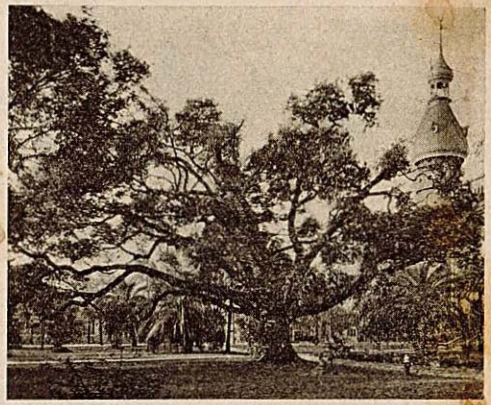
Ephemeral Hillsborough Co.

TRAVEL WITH ME TAMPA



TAMPA AND THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA

Historical and Authentic sketch of the oldest explored territory of the United States. The coming of the Conquistadors and Spanish Priests—American Pioneers and Seminoles — Fort Brooke — Gasparilla, the Pirate King—Tampa under the Confederate Flag—The Spanish American and World War—The Florida Boom—Points of Interest and Trips along the West Coast, the Modern Garden of Eden.



The De Soto Oak—Tampa Bay Hotel in background. It was under this Oak that De Soto was said to have made his treaty with the Indians—Marked by the D. A. R. with a tablet.

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TAMPA, FLORIDA

by

Mrs. Sumter de Leon Lowry

and

Carita Doggett Corse, M. A.

The Story of Tampa

The Coming of the Spaniards

An Indian village on old Tampa Bay was in wild confusion on the morning of April 15, 1528, the women and children collecting their possessions to flee; the warriors and braves lighting signal fires, to warn the whole region that four hundred white gods, clad in arrowproof armor, had landed on the peninsula, west of the bay. Forty-five horses, the first ever seen by these Indians, accompanied the expedition and greatly added to the natives terror. And so, when Pamfilio de Narvaez, the Spanish commander of this expedition, read his proclamation taking possession of the country in the name of his king and country, no one remained in the village to hear it. The Indians continued to stand aloof, though not belligerant, until de Narvaez mistreated them and earned their hatred. Nevertheless, the Spaniards were delighted with the beautiful harbor, which they called the Bay of the Holy Cross, since they had landed on Good Friday. "The port of which we speak is the best in the world" wrote De Vaca, the historian of the expedition. De Narvaez, as Adelantado (governor) of the Floridas, occupied the largest house in the village—the house of Hirrihigua, (sometimes called Ucita), the chief. This was a great thatched structure called in the Indian language a "Buhios", built to shelter three hundred men, and standing on one of the enormous shell mounds which are still the wonder of this locality.

In a fish net De Narvaez found a gold ornament which raised his hopes of treasures to be found inland, and the next day four captive Indians were brought in who told of the rich city of Ocali (now Ocala), lying to the northeast. Allowing their ships to return to Cuba, the shining host marched inland to their destruction. Only four men of this illstared party survived, finally reaching Mexico and later Spain. The four hundredth anniversary of this important event was commemorated by an entire week of celebration in Tampa in 1928, when the De Narvaez Causeway, over an arm of the McKay Bay, was dedicated to the honor of

this illustrious soldier, and a boulder of native granite bearing the facts about his expedition was placed in Plant Park. With the exception of the landing of Ponce De Leon in 1513, this was the first great historical event of the territory now the United States and first authorized expedition sent out by any nation.

Early Florida Indians

Shortly after De Narzaez disappeared, a single Spanish vessel returning from Cuba with supplies, hovered timidly near Tampa's shores, trying to see some sign of that lost army. A letter stuck in a forked stick on the beach, lured four of the boldest men ashore, where the Indians at once seized them and dragged them into the woods. Juan Ortiz, a Spanish boy of 18 was the only one of this number who was spared and he became a slave of Hirrihigua until befriended by the Chief's daughter, Ulela, who after twice dramatically saving his life from her father, sent him to her fiance, Mucozo, a neighboring chief for protection.

De Soto and the Conquistadors Arrive

Eleven years passed before white men ventured here again, but this time they came with redoubled strength. Six hundred strong, the flower of Spanish chivalry, followed Hernando de Soto, that matchless conqueror, to the west coast of Florida, arriving May 25, 1539 on Whitsunday. He called the bay, "Espiritu Santo", (Holy Spirit). There is some doubt as to the exact harbor where he landed, but it was in the vicinity of Tampa, for his scouts soon brought in Juan Ortiz, the Spaniard whom Mucozo had befriended, and he served as interpreter for the expedition henceforth. Like Narvaez, De Soto occupied the Chief's house in a deserted village. In the grotesque temple, surmounted by a fowl with gilded eyes, he found some pearls—damaged, it is true, by fire, but enough to delude him with

hopes of treasure. Ortiz told De Soto that Hirrihigua, the chief of this village, was hostile with memories of Narvaez, but the neighboring chief Mucozo, had befriended him when Hirrihigua would have killed him. Accordingly, Mucozo was invited to the Spanish camp and rewarded for his years of kindness by the gift of a shirt. This chief said that northeast lay cities of great wealth, and De Soto started his great army on its long march, to meet fame as the discoverer of the Mississippi, and a grave beneath its waters.

Tampa Bay Sands Reddened With the Blood of Martyrs

Though both Narvaez and De Soto had brought priests with them to Florida, these Missionaries had found it impossible to convert the natives while their own countrymen were cutting a conquerer's path through the land. At length Fray Luis Cancer, a brave Dominican, secured permission in 1549 to try converting the native Floridans at some point where soldiers had not yet touched. Unfortunately, an ignorant pilot landed him at Tampa Bay, where the Indians had borne the brunt of two of the four greatest Spanish invasions into the New World. Fray Luis and several companions went unarmed to meet the Indians, who murdered them in plain view of their ship, thus adding these heroic martyrs to the long list of Tampa's pilgrims.

The next distinguished visitor to Tampa was none other than Pedro de Menendez, who, after driving the French from the St. Johns River and establishing himself at St. Augustine, made a tour of the coast and reached Tampa Bay (called by him San Gregario) in 1568. Here he sought in vain for a water route to the St. John River, and made a treaty with Tocobago, the chief of Tampa's villages, whereby he was allowed to leave twenty-four soldiers as a coastguard for shipwrecked vessels. As soon as he had left, however, Tocobago invited the Spanish garrison on a deer hunt and killed them all, for he wished no interference with the profitable harvest of salvage and white slaves, which he was reaping from the shipwrecks along the coast. And so, for more than a

federate Veterans Camp at Tampa bears his name The U. S. V. Camp is named for another of Florida's immortals. Gen. J. J. Dickinson. Finally General Worth compelled the Seminole Chief, Coacoochee, a prisoner at Tampa, to send for his tribesmen, threatening death to their chief if they fail to appear. When the transports loaded with wailing Indians left Tampa Bay, Coacoochee said sadly, "I am looking at the last pine tree on my land."

Some Indians remained in the Everglades, however, and in 1856 "Billy Bowlegs War" broke out, during which many young officers were stationed at Fort Brooke who were soon to win immortality in the War between the States—George Gordon Meade, A. P. Hill, O. O. Howard, and our beloved Stonewall Jackson. Billy Bowlegs' tribe was finally brought into Tampa and sent to the Indian Reservation, only a few remaining in the Everglades, whose descendents are still there. Thus ended the Seminole War, which cost the United States twenty million dollars and the lives of 1500 soldiers and officers.

The War Between the States

In 1861 four companies of men left Tampa to join the armies of the Confederacy, and the defenseless town was blockaded and shelled, and finally occupied in an effort to stop blockade runners from taking cotton to Cuba and returning with the sorely needed supplies for the South. Of the 1000 men mustered in service in 1861 only 28 men and 4 officers surrendered in April 1865. Reconstruction was a dark chapter of heroic endurance for Tampa.

In 1870 Tampa had a population of only 786. For years the little town, a mere fishing village and trading post, seemed so romantically remote from the world that Jules Verne selected it as the starting point for his famous story "From the Earth to the Moon", published in 1873. "Verne Street", in Hyde Park, Tampa, was named in appreciation of this honor. Sidney Lanier also found this a place of inspiration for writing many of his charming poems. Years later, Beach Place was given the name of the well known novelist Rex Beach, whose childhood was spent there. Early in 1900 Maurice Thompson, another distinguished

author, wrote "Alice of Old Vincennes" while visiting his daughter in Tampa.

In 1876 the mail was still brought by stage three times a week to Tampa from Gainesville, via Fort King and Brooksville, over a road so deep with white sand that it was known as "The Great White Road". After the city was incorporated in 1855, one of the first ordinances forbade reckless driving on the streets, at over six miles an hour. However, the veil of obscurity was lifted when the South Florida Railroad reached Tampa in 1884—a narrow gauge which connected Tampa with Sanford, thence by boat up the St. Johns to Jacksonville. Two years later it was completed to Jacksonville and afterwards became part of the Plant System. In 1888 the Florida Central extended its branch into Tampa which was later acquired by the S. A. L. In 1891 the great financier and developer Henry Bradley Plant, opened the magnificent Tampa Bay Hotel, built in the romantic Byzantine style, with its marvelous furnishings collected from ancient Spanish palaces and monasteries. The 60 acre tropical park surrounding the hotel, contains a Casino, a Municipal Auditorium, magnificent Exposition Grounds and Race Track. It enjoys the distinction of being the only municipally owned hotel plant in the United States.

The Cigar Industry
"In a Little Spanish Town"

With the coming of the railroads, another event of great importance to Tampa occurred—the establishing of its great cigar industry. From 1886 to 1890 many cigar manufacturers came from Key West and Cuba, the first of these being Vincent Martinez Ybor, who purchased a large tract on the northeast limit of the city. Here Ybor built a great factory. In April 1886, which was the beginning of Ybor City, and the nucleus of the largest cigar center in the world. To Sanchez and Haya goes the credit of making the first cigar, while many other nationally known manufacturers followed. There are now 200 cigar factories in Ybor City and West Tampa. So important an industrial center did these interests make of Tampa that, in 1887, it was created a port of entry and now ranks next to New

Orleans in importance on the Gulf Coast. An atmosphere of the old world pervades these foreign settlements with their restaurants, markets, shops, cafes, clubs and recreational centers, where foreign food and a dozen languages hold sway. The most prominent of their clubs are the Circulo Cubano, El Centro Asturiano, L' Union Italiana and the order of the Sons of Italy, whose fine equipment includes ball rooms, theatres, gymnasiums and swimming pools.

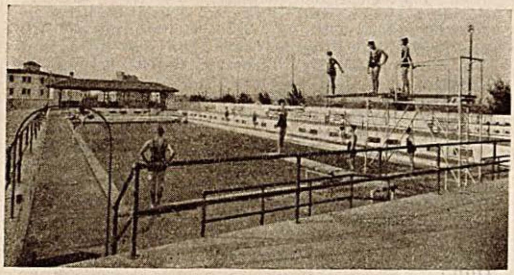
During the Spanish American War, in 1898 Tampa, then a little city of 25,000 people, was encircled by a military encampment which extended continuously for 9 miles out to Port Tampa City. Seventy-five thousand troops were quartered here during the five months of this great event. The Tampa Bay Hotel was reopened and the functions there were brilliant with famous army leaders, military representatives of foreign powers, distinguished Cuban refugees, writers and war correspondents of international repute. Roosevelt and his Rough Riders camped just behind the hotel. General Joe Wheeler, General Shafter, General Wade, Richmond Hobson, Fitzhugh Lee, Col. David Gaillard of Panama Canal fame, Frederick Remington, Richard Harding Davis, Annie Early Wheeler, Clara Barton and her corps of nurses, were among the many distinguished men and women here. The transports which conveyed the U. S. Army to Cuba sailed from Port Tampa, and relatives and camp followers by the thousand, swamped the city for months before and after their departure.

During the World War in 1917-18 many wooden and steel ships were built at Tampa, where these shipyards are still operated privately. Tampa sent her full quota of her best youth to the war. Beautiful Memorial Highway, or the Road of Remembrance, of 15 miles, tropically planted, is a reminder of the part these men played in this great event.

DAVIS ISLANDS

After the World War, when so many wealthy Northern people sought diversion in the United States rather than brave the battle-scarred resorts of Europe, America suddenly became conscious of Florida—its unique location, so accessible to New York and yet so suited for a winter playground.

Not only Easterners, but people from the whole country, and even foreign capitalists invested heavily in Florida real estate, the boom rising to proportions beyond any gold rush in history. Tampa was the center of a remarkable development known as Davis Islands—a beautiful city built on islands in the bay and connected by a causeway to the main city within five motor minutes from the business center of the city. Here rose elaborate structures—the Davis Islands' Country Club, with its electrically operated sliding roof for moonlight dances, the Colliseum with turtle back dome allowing 7000 couples on the dancing floor without crowding, the great swimming pool, magnificent hotels and beautiful homes of Spanish design, copied from masterpieces of architecture abroad. The Municipal Hospital also stands here, a $1,500,000 plant of perfect and up-to-date planning as to architecture and equipment. The substantial values of this creation were appreciated even after real estate resumed more normal conditions, for Stone & Webster now continue this beautiful development, representing $16,000,000. The 25 miles of water front, 21 miles of streets, 11 miles of seawall, 40 miles of sidewalk and 60,000 tropical plants and trees, create on its 832 acres a notable achievement of substantial beauty and enchantment.



Davis Islands Swimming Pool

Points of Interest in Tampa to Visit

Tampa Bay Park—60 acres of tropical

planting, sloping from the hotel to the Hillsborough River.

Lowry Park—106 acres, landscaped and of great natural beauty, on the west bank of Hillsborough River.

Adams or Robles Park—17 acres, landscaped and planted about a charming little lake.

Ballast Point Park—Five acres on Hillsborough Bay; a recreation center with municipal fishing pier.

Marjorie Park—55 acres, with Tennis Club buildings and courts on which national meets are held.

Barrett Park—60 acres, on Hillsborough River, with municipally owned water works, surrounded by a park of natural beauty.

De Soto Park—5 acres, on McKay Bay, with recreational center and buildings for tourists.

Tampa Yacht and Country Club—On Hillsborough Bay, the pioneer club recently burned, but now being rebuilt.

Beach and Sunset Park—On old Tampa Bay, two suburbs of great beauty, developed in Spanish style.

Other Fine Clubs and Golf Courses Include

Forest Hills and Temple Terrace country Clubs, McFarlane Park Golf Course, Municipal Golf Course, Rocky Point Golf Course, Davis Islands Golf Course, Palma Ceia Golf Course.

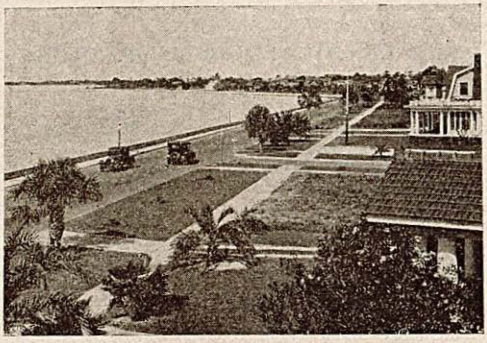
Federated and Musical Club Building—On Horatio Street, where women's club meetings and musical features are held, and the Tampa Little Theatre Guild gives its plays.

Tampa Woman's Club—On Plant Avenue, a large and convenient center for women's activities.

Exposition Grounds and Race Track—Stadium adjoining Tampa Bay Hotel grounds where annually the South Florida Fair Association (organized in 1903) holds a 12 days' fair, with brilliant exhibits from Florida, Mexico and foreign countries. These expositions have gained national recognition.

Benjamin Field—Headquarters for 116th Field Artillery South Florida Regiment. Field donated by the city, fully equipped by the government. A large boxing stadium is here.

Bayshore Boulevard—A drive of great beauty following the curves of Tampa Bay for six miles to Tampa Yacht and Country Club, overlooked by handsome homes and grounds.



Beautiful Bayshore Drive

Water Speedway—Between Davis Islands and the mainland offers a sheltered course where national water sports are featured.

Land and Seaplane Base—Bonds have been voted for a $750,000 combined port for land and seaplanes on the Sub-Peninsula. At present Drew Field is the airport competently serving this industry.

Tampa Museum—On Cypress Street, beside an Indian mound where 150 skeletons and many interesting relics excavated, are on exhibit.

Gandy Bridge—Six miles long. Leaving Tampa by way of Bayshore Boulevard, a shore drive of surpassing beauty, one crosses Gandy Bridge (the longest automobile toll bridge in the world, with tropically planted causeways). George Gandy, originally of Philadelphia, now of St. Petersburg, conceived and financed the project, thus shortening the distance from Tampa to St. Petersburg by 30 miles.

Port Tampa City—Nine miles southwest of Tampa, on old Tampa Bay, was built by H. B. Plant as a port to develop foreign

trade and is the starting point for Cuban trips.

Sulphur Springs—Six miles from Tampa, whose flow is 60,000 gallons a minute. A recreational center and alligator farm. Boat trips on the Hillsborough River here are of unusual beauty.

TWO INLAND NEIGHBORS OF TAMPA

PLANT CITY

The Strawberry Capital, 22 miles east of Tampa, named for H. B. Plant, pioneer, financier and developer of the west coast. Largest strawberry area, shipping six million quarts in 1929-30. Hillsborough County Agricultural School and Strawberry Experimental Bureau offer free instruction and research for farmers. The annual Strawberry Festival with court and pageantry proclaims, in March, the supremacy and earliness of maturity of this luscious fruit at Plant City.

LAKELAND

Founded in 1884 when the railroad came from Tampa to Kissimmee. With an altitude of 227 feet, its climate is dry and healthy. There are 19 lakes within the city limits, of which Mirror Lake is the handsomely developed municipal recreation center. Southern College, co-educational, is ideally located here, with 28 states and 13 denominations represented in the student body.

ST. PETERSBURG

The Sunshine City, on the coast. Large shell mounds mark aboriginal inhabitants of Pinellas Peninsula where Smithsonian archeologists have found carved shells, weapons, jars, bowls and skeletons, together with European relics. Spanish names of islands and points along the shore indicate early Spanish settlers and a mariner's chart of 1808 calls Pinellas, Point del Pinar. As early as 1843, Antonio Maximi secured a land grant for his services in the Seminole War and had his "fish ranch" at the end of the Peninsular, Maximo Point. A federal patrol boat raided the house of Abel Miranda, took his stock and farm produce and killed his orange trees, whereupon the few dozen settlers adandoned the point until after the war. A postoffice was established at Pinellas Village in 1876, and the

next year General John C. Williams brought his family from Detroit, Michigan, and settled here on a 1600 acre tract. At his invitation, in 1888, Petrovitch A. Demenschoff, a Russian exile, extended the Orange Belt Railroad from Longwood to the future St. Petersburg, a name which the toss of a coin decided for the little town. The first Hotel, the Detroit, still popular, was named by General Williams in honor of his former home. Within forty years, St. Petersburg has grown from a tiny village to a world-famous resort, whose climate is so delightful that the largest newspaper gives its entire home edition away whenever the sun fails to shine. In 18 years the paper has been given away only six times during each year.

St. Petersburg Million Dollar Pier and Bathing Beach

The famous green benches which line the streets are an unique feature, fostering friendly gatherings. Attractions skirt the six miles of municipally owned water front and a trip along Coffee Pot Bayou, Snell Isle, North Shore and Beach Drives brings one to the Million Dollar Pier and splendid Yacht Club. Playgrounds for children, bathing, boating, fishing, comfortable hotels and beautiful homes make St. Petersburg a veritable Tourists' Paradise.

PASS-A-GRILLE

The Enchanted Isle—"A crescent-shaped island of emerald, bound by a silvery beach and set in a sea of turquoise and amethyst". Reached by causeways across Boca Ceiga Bay, it is 10 miles southwest of St. Petersburg. The name in French "la Pass-aux-Grillards," translated means "Pass of the Grillers," and indicated the favorite landing place of buccaneers, smugglers and fishermen. Thus as early as 1841, the Grill (or broiling place) became famous and was called, Pass-aux Grillards on a government survey. It is now a beautiful and up-to-date resort with all conveniences and facilities for recreation, including a magnificent hotel and popular the year round.

FOLLOWING THE COAST NORTHWARD

CLEARWATER

Located twenty-eight miles west of Tampa. Highest coastal elevation of the state, on the narrowest neck of Pinellas County Peninsula. Its early history reaches back to the landing of De Narvaez and De Soto, an honor it shares with Tampa, as the intervening bay touches both cities.

Fort Harrison was built at Clearwater in 1841, selected for its healthful elevation, to care for sick soldiers during the Seminole War. The log building housing the officers stood at the intersection of Druid Road and Orange Place, in a beautiful location now known as Harbor Oaks, which overlooks the water in three dirctions—Old Tampa Bay, Clearwater Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The first white settlers came in 1842. Under the Armed Occupation Act, the United States gave 160 acres to any one who occupied the land, The earliest settlers lived in log cabins, made their furniture and cooked outdoors. Deer and fish abounded and the roar of mullet schools near the shores could be heard across the Bay. The first oranges found no market, but a little later a shipment went by sloop to St. Marks and thence to Tallahassee, on the only Florida railroad then existing, to be sold to the legislators. Clearwater is now the center of the finest groves in the State.

In 1861 every man in Clearwater joined the army of the Confederacy, and Union gunboats raided the defenseless town. The first railroad, called the Orange Belt came

in 1888. In 1895 the Plant System built the beautiful Belleview Hotel, which has ever since maintained a deserved renown among the most notable people of America. Clearwater claims to be the "Golf Capital of the West Coast". With its fine hotels, beautiful winter homes and miles of Gulf beaches on a chain of keys, reached by a magnificent Causeway, (fringed with tropical planting,) it is indeed a delightful spot where "every prospect pleases".

TARPON SPRINGS

The Center of the sponge fisheries, with a large colony of Greek sponge divers. Their varicolored boats with Greek names line the water front. Here curio shops display marvelous varieties of sea ferns, fans, sponges, odd fish and shells, brought in by the fishermen. Turkish coffee shops and foreign restaurants and the largest Sponge Exchange in the world are interesting points. For 26

Greek Sponge Boat

years Greek Cross Day, on January 6th, has drawn thousands of visitors to see Bishop Alexander, head of the Greek Church of North and South America, throw a gold cross into deep water for the divers to compete in finding. A white dove with fluttering ribbons rises as the cross is thrown, the ceremony being related in significance to

the baptism of John the Baptist. Many lovely winter homes are to be seen. George Innis, Jr., now deceased, the world famed landscape artist who lived here, has left a beautiful collection of his paintings hanging in the little church, where they are on display to thousands of tourists throughout the season.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Winter home of Thomas Meighan, Gene Sarazen and other movie stars. Here the Cootie River is of great beauty. Its real name is Pithlachascotee, so-called for the Indian princess Chascotee, who died of snake bite on what was to have been her wedding day. She was buried in the river and her betrothed, Prince Pithla, drowned himself there, whereupon their tribes named the river for the two lovers.

HOMOSASSA

Ninety-seven miles north at the end of crystalline Homosassa River, whose source is three enormous springs—two fresh and one salt. The site of the great sugar plantation of Senator David Yulee, Florida's U. S. Senator just before Secession. His sugar mill was destroyed and other buildings burned by Union gunboats searching for Confederate records, believed to be hidden there for President Jefferson Davis, close friend of Senator Yulee. Ruins of these buildings still remain in the jungle, now set aside as Yulee Park.

A boat ride of eight miles to the Gulf is a delightful experience, passing shores of dense tropical beauty over waters so clear that thousands of fish can be seen. Past Tigertail Island, home of the Seminole Chief, and the old fishing club known as the Rendezvous, where Grover Cleveland used to visit, the river joins Crystal and Salt Rivers, where large oyster beds have been planted. Countless islands at the Gulf make a fitting and tropical climax of beauty.

OCALA

Named for the Indian City of Ocali, meaning "abundance", visited by De Narvaez and De Soto, who met with the fiercest resistance from the powerful tribe here. Later in 1835 the Seminole chiefs, Osceola,

Micanopy and Charlie Amathla also chose this section for their homes. Fort King was built here in 1823 and was the objective of Major Dade on his historic march to Ocala. In Marshall's swamp an immense sugar mill furnished the Confederates with sugar during the war between the states. With its moss-draped trees and beautiful homes, Ocala retains much old Southern atmosphere.

SILVER SPRINGS

Six miles east of Ocala is the largest spring in the world, with a flow of 22,134,780 gallons a minute. So clear is the water that every portion of the bottom of the great basin, 80 feet deep, can be seen from the glassbottom boats as clearly as if air instead of water covered it. The spring flows into the Ocklawaha River, and is large enough to allow small steamers to come up from the St. Johns River. Many legends exist about this Spring and clothe a trip over its waters with beauty and mystery.

A return may be made by way of **Dunellon** near which is **Blue Springs,** second largest spring in the world.

BUSHNELL

Returning to Tampa we pass here Dade Memorial Park, 80 acres, containing marked monuments where the 136 men of Dade's command were ambushed and killed by the Seminoles under Chief Alligator and Micanopy on December 28, 1835. A bronze statue of an American soldier, breastworks and an outline of march reproduces the tragic event in appealing surroundings.

DADE CITY

Named for the gallant American officer who died fighting in advance of his command during the Seminole war of 1835-42.

FROM TAMPA TO FORT MYERS

South to the Ancient Lair of Pirates

(145 miles) Through Ybor City, over the De Narvaez Causeway and south by Tamiami Trail. Along Hillsborough Bay (named for English Secretary for Colonies during English ownership of Florida).

THE FIVE SISTERS

Towns of the Manatee River. Palmetto and Ellenton on the north bank, Bradenton

and Manatee on the south, form a charming group of cities. connected by a massive concrete bridge over the Manateee River, several miles wide here. Nearby on an island in

The Gamble Mansion, refuge of Judah P. Benjamin. Restored by Fla. U. D. C.

the river is Terra Ceia. These towns are the center for the citrus and truck farms of the surrounding country, which are unsurpassed. About 1854 Dr. Joseph Braden and his brothers, sugar planters, erected what was called their "castle" at the junction of Manatee and Braden Rivers, which became the refuge of the neighboring pioneers during Indian attacks. Twenty years later it was destroyed by fire, but the walls still stand, an object of interest to thousands of tourists. At Manatee, a colossal old chimney which was a ruin even in Dr. Braden's time also intrigues the interest of visitors —so large that a team of horses and carriage can drive into it, an enigmatic landmark rearing its head above the tall Royal Palms.

On the outskirts of Ellenton stands the old Gamble Mansion, where Judah P. Benjamin, one of the South's greatest statesmen, Confederate Secretary of State, was hidden from the Federals and later escaped to Nassau on a sailing vessel. Finally in England he became Queen's Counsel, made a large fortune and wrote law books which are authorities today. The Daughters of the Confederacy have restored and furnished the fine old Gamble house as a Confederate

memorial, and its massive pillars, broad porches and great fireplaces are fine examples of its period. An ancient graveyard nearby records on its headstones the long and dramatic story of this section.

SARASOTA

Located 55 miles south of Tampa, on Sarasota Bay, where a chain of tropical islands encircles the shores. Three miles beyond the city the Ringling Brothers Circus have winter quarters from November to April. March brings the colorful pageant of Sara-de-Sota, a Mardi Gras based on a legend of the love of De Soto's supposed daughter and the Indian prince, Chichi-Okobee, which is rendered more elaborate by the cooperation of the entire Ringling organization. The Ringling millions have spread a maze of causeways and resorts over Sarasota, Lido, Venice and Treasure Island beaches.

As early as 1885 Col. J. Hamilton Gillespie established one of the first golf courses in America, and several others have since been completed, among them the municipal course named for and christened by Bobby Jones. The palatial homes of John and Charles Ringling, the Potter Palmers, Prince and Princess Cantacuzene, Oliver Curwood, Wm. J. Burns, Stanley Field and other nationally known figures are found here. But the crowning glory of Sarasota is the John and Mabel Ringling Art Museum, ranking among the finest in the United States. In twenty-two side lighted galleries, hang paintings of the Byzantine schools of all ages. Eighty-eight sculptures of heroic size adorn the rim of the buildings and in the center of the patio stands Michael Angelo's David. The exquisitely colored 12th and 15th century columns of the Cloister were brought from Italy and the rooms leading from the loggia are filled with a magnificent art collection. The St. Gaudens room, where lectures are given, is dedicated to our own distinguished sculptor, and it is planned to develop this into a splendid art school. Certainly in this charming location the soul of an artist could expand and realize his dreams.

GASPARILLA

The Pirate King of the Gulf

Gasparilla, the most famous of the West Coast pirates, had his stronghold at the

mouth of Charlotte Harbor. On an island of Turtle Bay he built a stronghold, murdered his male captives and kept the women for his harem. Pierre LaFitte, brother of Jean, joined him here, and they are reputed to have amassed a fortune of eleven million dollars. John Gomez claiming to be Gasparilla's brother-in-law, said that in 1822, just as they were about to abandon piracy and divide this spoil, which was hidden in six different places, an English merchantman hove in sight and the pirates gave chase. But the disguised boat proved to be the Tampa, a vessel equipped by the government at the request of Tampa's early settlers to rout the pirate. Closely pressed and seeing escape impossible, Gasparilla wrapped an anchor chain around his neck and jumped overboard. (See Tampa page 6 for Gasparilla Carnival.) Many attempts have been made to find the buried treasure of Gasparilla's Islands.

FORT MYERS

In 1521 Ponce de Leon on his second trip to Florida attempted to make a landing at the mouth of the Caloosahatchie, but was attacked so fiercely by the Indians that he was wounded and returned to Cuba to die. ("Hatchie", is the Indian word meaning River.) San Carlos Bay and pass as well as the Caloosahatchie bear the name of the great Indian chief Carlos of Menendez' time (1567) who, when he heard that Charles V of Spain was the most powerful king in the world, assumed that name also, He bestowed his sister upon Menendez, who felt obliged to accept the gift, though the princess was both old and homely. The principal town of Carlos was near the present site of Naples, though his sub-chiefs had villages from Cape Sable to Tampa Bay, long before the Seminoles came to Florida. In 1660 a Spanish priest was stationed at the Ten Thousand Islands and many Spanish names of this locality date from this early time.

Fort Myers was a supply base for Federals during the War between the States, and Federal gunboats blockaded the port of Punta Rassa while their men swept the country for food and stock. The Confederates at Fort Thompson finally compelled them to retreat, though inferior in numbers and equipment. For years afterwards, there was no official government, the town being under the War Department, but in 1885 Fort Myers was finally incorporated and has developed into a city of unique beauty. The main street is lined with a double row of Royal Palms, while 100 varieties of palms are to be found in the vicinity. It is the winter home of Thomas Edison, the great inventor, whose attention was caught by the beautiful location many years ago when he sailed up the Caloosahatchie in search of cocoanuts. His home, was built in 1885 and later his laboratory on the banks of this famous river, where his grounds contain many tropical plants and where his experiments in rubber producing plants have fixed the attention of the world on Fort Myers.

Many other celebrities live here—Henry Ford, Firestone, Statler, Dr. Henry Miles and others.

Barron Collier has started tremendous operations south of this point. A whole county bears his name and the town of Everglades, at the head of Chokotoskee Bay is his operating center. The Ten Thousand Islands stretch along the Bay here, and Mr. Collier operates bus and boat lines, telephone companies, banks, railroads and other utilities. In 1913 Mr. Collier bought Useppa Island, the first link in what has since become a chain of five resort establishments owned by him. These waters are rendezvous for millionarie fisherman who find here the finest fishing on the coast. The Tamiami Trail from Miami to Fort Myers and Tampa has made possible the development of this rich and hitherto obscure country.

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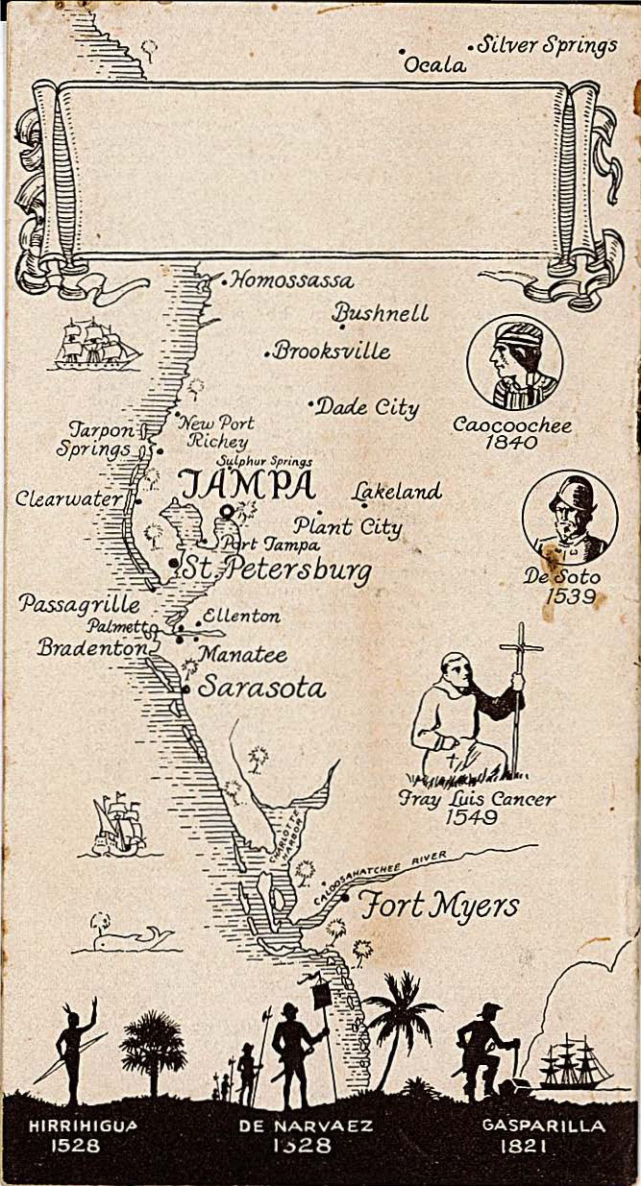
Silver Springs
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Port Tampa
St. Petersburg
De Soto
1539
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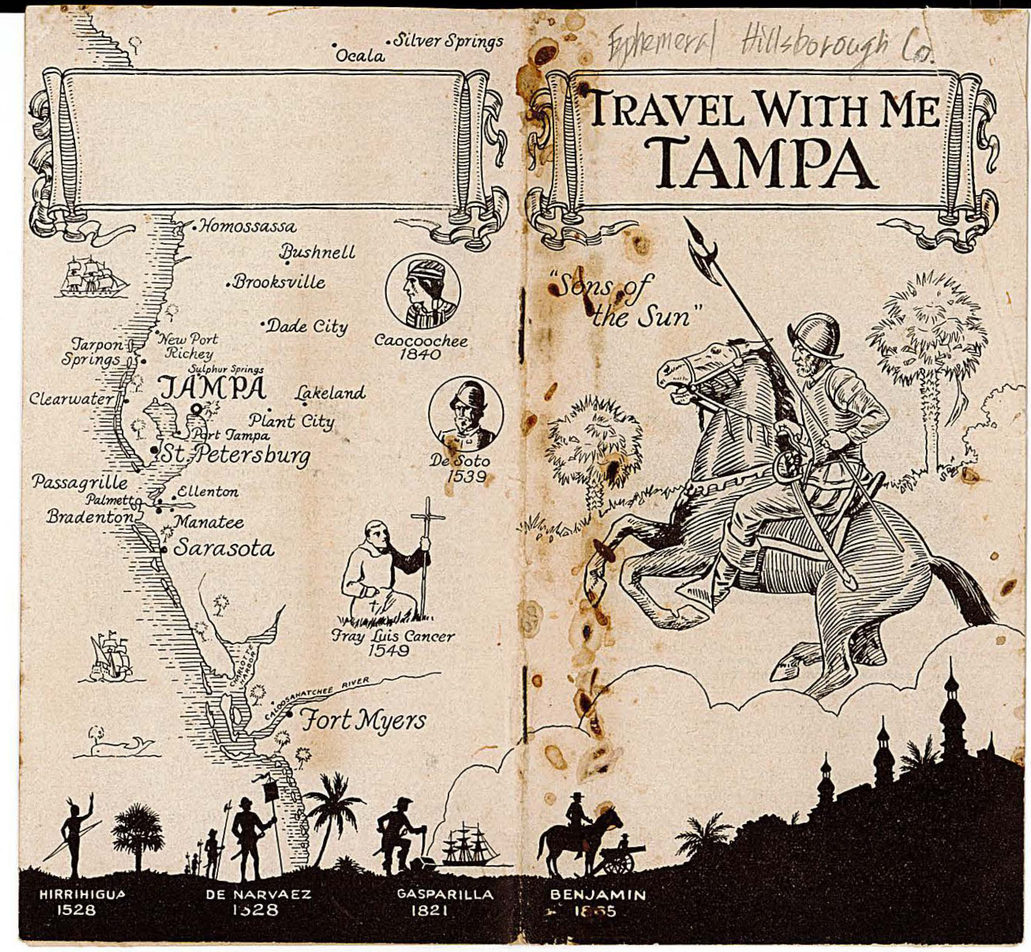
TRAVEL WITH ME TAMPA



"Sons of the Sun"